

**Living  
Upside  
Down**

Message 7: *Straight Talk*  
Mt. 5:33-37





1

**Integrity**

- the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness.
- the state of being whole and undivided



2

**What this message is about**

Jesus challenges deceptive speech under the disguise of an oath or a vow.



3

**Purpose of this message**

To encourage integrity in the way we speak to one another and to the world around us.



4

**1. Legal Righteousness:**

Don't take false oaths or vows.



5

**Mt. 5:33**

*"Again, you have heard it said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn."*



6

## 2. Kingdom righteousness

### Integrity in speech.



7

### Mt. 5:34-37

*But I say to you, do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,<sup>35</sup> or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.*



8

### Mt. 5:34-37

*<sup>36</sup>And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Let what you say simply be 'yes' or 'no'; anything more than this comes from evil."*



9

### Mt. 23:16-22

*"Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.'*



10

### Mt. 23:16-22

*<sup>17</sup> You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? <sup>18</sup> And you say, 'If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.'*



11

### Mt. 23:16-22

*<sup>19</sup> You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? <sup>20</sup> So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it.*



12

**Mt. 23:16-22**

*<sup>16</sup> And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. <sup>22</sup> And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.*



13

**1John 1:5-7**

*This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*



14

**1John 1:5-7**

*<sup>6</sup> If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.*



15

**1John 1:5-7**

*<sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*



16

**Colossians 3:9**

*Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and. Have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*



17

**James 5:12**

*But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your 'yes' be yes and your 'no' be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.*



18

### Next Step

**Make integrity a habit. Apply the gospel to your speech. When people ask you questions, answer honestly and directly. Tell difficult truths when needed. Be honest even when it hurts. Make Jesus' teaching about integrity a daily practice.**

